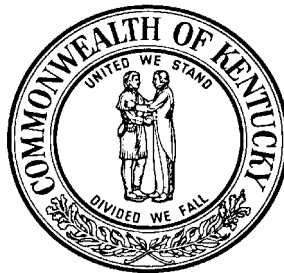


**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2001 TAXES**

June 10, 2002



EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2001 TAXES**

June 10, 2002

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2001 Taxes for Russell County Sheriff as of June 10, 2002. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

The Sheriff collected taxes of \$3,750,557 for the districts for 2001 taxes and distributed taxes of \$3,592,365 to the districts. Taxes of \$1,408 are due to the districts and a refund of \$7 is due to the Sheriff from the state.

Deposits:

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities or bonds.

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EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor

T. Kevin Flanery, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Dana Mayton, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet

Honorable Charles M. Smith, Russell County Judge/Executive

Honorable Larry Bennett, Russell County Sheriff

Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement - 2001 Taxes as of June 10, 2002. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Russell County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Russell County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of June 10, 2002, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor

T. Kevin Flanery, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Dana Mayton, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet

Honorable Charles M. Smith, Russell County Judge/Executive

Honorable Larry Bennett, Russell County Sheriff

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In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated August 1, 2002, on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
August 1, 2002

RUSSELL COUNTY
LARRY BENNETT, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2001 TAXES

June 10, 2002

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 283,695	\$ 635,138	\$ 1,676,764	\$ 577,283
Tangible Personal Property	33,585	82,904	157,703	166,003
Intangible Personal Property				54,377
Fire Protection	2,632			
Taxes Increased Through Erroneous Assessments	50	111	293	101
Franchise Corporation	38,365	93,772	184,986	
Oil and Gas Property Taxes	73	163	431	148
Penalties	2,621	5,874	15,226	6,058
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	(45)	21	(12)	(10)
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>\$ 360,976</u>	<u>\$ 817,983</u>	<u>\$ 2,035,391</u>	<u>\$ 803,960</u>
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	\$ 1,659	\$ 3,788	\$ 9,366	\$ 3,781
Discounts	4,615	10,346	26,473	11,555
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	6,822	15,217	40,174	13,797
Tangible Personal Property	4,363	10,770	20,487	19,659
Intangible Personal Property				31
Uncollected Franchise	<u>7,927</u>	<u>19,521</u>	<u>37,402</u>	
Total Credits	<u>\$ 25,386</u>	<u>\$ 59,642</u>	<u>\$ 133,902</u>	<u>\$ 48,823</u>
Net Tax Yield	\$ 335,590	\$ 758,341	\$ 1,901,489	\$ 755,137
Less: Commissions *	<u>14,550</u>	<u>31,761</u>	<u>76,060</u>	<u>32,381</u>
Net Taxes Due	\$ 321,040	\$ 726,580	\$ 1,825,429	\$ 722,756
Taxes Paid	320,820	725,013	1,824,151	722,381
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>182</u>	<u>408</u>	<u>1,067</u>	<u>382</u>
Due Districts or (Refund Due Sheriff) as of Completion of Fieldwork	<u>\$ 38</u>	<u>\$ 1,159</u>	<u>\$ 211</u>	<u>\$ (7)</u>

* and ** See Page 4

RUSSELL COUNTY
LARRY BENNETT, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2001 TAXES
June 10, 2002
(Continued)

* Commissions:

10% on	\$	10,000
4.25% on	\$	1,651,472
4% on	\$	2,089,085

** Special Taxing Districts:

Library District	\$	508
Health District		54
Extension District		13
Soil District		68
Ambulance District		473
Hospital District		<u>43</u>
Due Districts	\$	<u><u>1,159</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

RUSSELL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 10, 2002

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. These requirements were met, and as of June 10, 2002, the Sheriff's deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral of either pledged securities held by the Sheriff's agent in the Sheriff's name, or provided surety bond which named the Sheriff as beneficiary/obligee on the bond.

RUSSELL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
June 10, 2002
(Continued)

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2001. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 2002. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was October 18, 2001 through April 30, 2002

Note 4. Interest Income

The Russell County Sheriff earned \$3,078 as interest income on 2001 taxes. The Sheriff distributed the appropriate amount to the school district as required by statute, and the remainder will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Russell County Sheriff collected \$25,382 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.430(3). This amount will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

Note 6. Advertising Costs And Fees

The Russell County Sheriff collected \$1,930 of advertising costs and \$1,930 of advertising fees allowed by KRS 424.330(1) and KRS 134.440(2). The Sheriff distributed the advertising costs to the county as required by statute, and the advertising fees will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

Note 7. Escrow Account

The 1999 tax settlement audit resulted in unexplained receipts in the amount of \$3,248. The Sheriff established an escrow account for these monies. The beginning balance for the current audit period was \$3,302. Interest earned on the account was \$58. This leaves an ending balance of \$3,360.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

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Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement - 2001 Taxes as of June 10, 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated August 1, 2002. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Russell County Sheriff's Settlement - 2001 Taxes as of June 10, 2002 is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Russell County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified party.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
August 1, 2002

